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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,179	08/27/2001	Stuart E. Massey	16293/09001	3507
27530	7590	06/12/2006	EXAMINER	
NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH, LLP			JOO, JOSHUA	
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COLUMBIA, SC 29201			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/940,179	MASSEY, STUART E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joshua Joo	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment filed 4/24/2006

1. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because the reference numbers are handwritten and the fonts are too small, making the figures illegible. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, filed 4/24/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claims 1-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

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However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Navarre et al, US Publication #2004/0249814 (Navarre hereinafter).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 8-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- i) Regarding claim 8, it is unclear as to which message "said second message" is referring to since "a second message" is introduced in claim 1, and claim 8 states the limitation of "a second response message".
- ii) Regarding claim 12, the limitation of "easily" renders the claim indefinite because the extend of "easily" is unclear.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Navarre.

7. As per claim 1, Navarre teaches the invention as claimed including a method for transaction between disparate systems in a computing environment, Navarre's teachings comprise of:

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(a) receiving a first message in a first message format from an originating system, said first message having request data indicative of a transaction request (Paragraph 0011. Receive a request from a client application. Data access transaction.);

(b) at a first interface, evaluating said first message to ascertain said request data (Paragraph 0011. Identify request and technical implementation of the request.);

(c) said first interface further applying a predetermined criteria to said request data so as to generate said transaction request (Paragraph 0008; 0011. Use process control tables to define processing requirements of the request. Identify data access transactions.);

(d) routing said transaction request to an appropriate service system to be responsively fulfilled (Paragraph 0012. Data access transactions are transmitted to the respective server applications.);

(e) fulfilling said transaction request at said service system and indicating same to said first interface (Paragraph 0013. Process received data access transaction and receive responses.); and

(f) issuing via said first interface a second message to said originating system in said first message format as a first response message to said transaction request (Paragraph 0013. Response is placed in a common message structure, and formatted using the rules for defining the request. Response send back to client application.).

8. As per claim 11, Navarre teaches the invention as claimed including a computing environment including a plurality of computer systems, Navarre's system comprising:

each of said computer systems being equipped with agents operative to transfer external messages into and out of a particular message format (Paragraph 0009. Software routines. Paragraph 0011. Identify data access transaction regarding request.);

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each of said computer systems further having stored configuration objects indicating expected transaction requests and corresponding service systems (Paragraph 0008; 0011. Process control tables define processing requirements of the request. Processing rules needed to communicate with a server application.); and

such that transaction requests are disassociated from incoming message by said agents and configuration objects, said transaction requests being automatically routed to appropriate service systems for fulfillment (Paragraph 0009; 0011-0012. Process request to identify data access transaction. Data access transactions are transmitted to respective server applications.).

9. As per claim 16, Navarre teaches the invention as claimed including a method for communication between disparate systems in a computing environment, Navarre's teachings comprising:

a first interface running first agents according to a predetermined configuration objects (Paragraph 0009. Routines.);

a second interface running second agents according to said predetermined configuration objects (Paragraph 0009. Routines.);

said first interface being operative to translate a first message format received from said first computer entity into an organizationally independent context data structure (Paragraph 0008; 0011. Identify technical implementation of the request using control tables.) and

said second interface reading and acting upon said context data structure to produce a second message in a second message format issued to said second computer entity (Paragraph 0012. Transmit data access transactions to respective server applications.).

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10. As per claims 5 and 14, Navarre teaches the method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first interface functions to generate a context data structure organizationally independent of said first message format, said context data structure being acted upon in servicing said transaction request (Paragraph 0008; 0011. Identify data access transaction. Data access transaction is formatted to communicate with server application. Processing rules.).

11. As per claim 6, Navarre teaches the teaches the method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said transaction request is routed to said service system through application of topological configuration objects to a predetermined ruleset (Paragraph 0011. Use control table to define processing requirements of the request and identify data access transaction. Route data access transaction.).

12. As per claim 7, Navarre teaches the method as set forth in claim 6, wherein said topological configuration objects are modifiable independently of said ruleset (Paragraph 0017. Gateway, firewall.)

13. As per claim 15, Navarre teaches the arrangement as set forth in claim 11, wherein said configuration objects are easily modifiable to reflect changes in said computing environment (Paragraph 0025. Application integration tables and processing controls can be updated.).

14. As per claim 17, Navarre teaches the arrangement as set forth in claim 16, wherein:
said second computer entity issues a third message in said second message format in response to said second message (Paragraph 0013. Transmits response.); and

said first interface responsively acting to read said context data structure and produce a fourth message in said first message format back to said first computer entity (Paragraph 0013. Response are placed in a common message structure, and transmitted for presentation back to the client application.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 2, 3, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarre.

17. As per claim 2, Navarre teaches the method as set forth in claim 1, wherein first interface includes a routine, i.e. agent, said routine being operative to extract said request data from said first message and produce said transaction request therefrom (Paragraph 0009; 0022). However, Navarre does not teach of an agent extracting the request data and another agent producing the transaction request.

18. Nonetheless, since Navarre taught of routines performing individual functions in the system (Paragraph 0009), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement a routine for extracting the request data and a routine for producing the transaction request because doing so would improve the system of Navarre by allowing multitasking within the system and automatically servicing tasks, which would improve efficiency.

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19. As per claim 3, Navarre teaches the method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said service system includes a server agent in communication with said interface agent (Paragraph 0009; 0011. Routines in communication with each other.).

20. As per claim 12, Navarre teaches the system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said agents include:

agents operative to extract request data from said external messages (Paragraph 0011. Receive and identify request and technical implementation of the request.);

agents operative to produce said transaction request from said request data (Paragraph 0011. Define and identify data access transaction.); and

server agents in communication with said interface agents so as to fulfill said transaction requests (Paragraph 0011-0013. Transmit data access transaction. Receive response and integrate response for presentation to the client application.). Navarre does not teach of a first routine for extracting request data and a second routine for producing transaction request from the request data.

21. Nonetheless, since Navarre taught of routines performing individual functions in the system (Paragraph 0009), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement a routine for extracting the request data and a routine for producing the transaction request because doing so would improve the system of Navarre by allowing multitasking within the system and automatically servicing tasks, which would improve efficiency.

22. Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarre, in view of Chang et al, US Patent #5,706,516 (Chang hereinafter).

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23. As per claims 4 and 13, Navarre does not teach the invention as set forth in claims 3 and 12, wherein said agents communicate with each other using message queues

24. Chang teaches of agents communicating using message queues (Abstract; Col 6, lines 56-65).

25. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Navarre and Chang because the teachings of Chang for agents to communicate using message queues would improve the system of Navarre by allowing communications between routines without having to connect to each other.

26. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarre, in view of Young et al, US Patent #6,108,649 (Young hereinafter).

27. As per claim 8, Navarre does not teach the method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step of fulfilling said transaction request comprises: (g) at a second interface, issuing a third message in a second message format to an auxiliary system requesting information; (h) receiving a second response message at said second interface in said second message format containing said information; and (i) extracting said information from said second message at said second interface and providing said information to said service system.

28. Young teaches of a system for receiving a message; at a second interface, issuing a message in a second message format to another system requesting information; receiving the response; and extracting information from the response at the second interface (Col 9, lines 13-25, 39-66).

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29. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Navarre and Young because the teachings of Young of Paragraph 28 would improve the system of Navarre by providing transparent communication between a plurality of different network operating systems for servicing requests (Col 2, lines 62-67).

30. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarre and Young, in view of Page, US Patent #5,329,619 (Page hereinafter).

31. As per claim 9, Navarre and Young do not teach the method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first message format and said second message format are different protocols.

32. Page teaches the concept of converting message to different protocols for communication (Col 3, lines 49-64)

33. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Navarre, Young, and Page because the teachings of Page to have messages in different protocols would improve the system of Navarre and Young by providing a system that is independent of operating system and protocol for facilitating communications between application protocols (Col 3, lines 20-28).

34. As per claim 10, Navarre and Young do not explicitly teach the method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first message format and said second message format are equivalent protocols.

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35. Page teaches of applications in a system communicating using a single communication protocol (Col 1, line 30-47).

36. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Navarre, Young, and Page because the teachings of Page for communication using the same protocols would allow similar applications to communicate with each other without requiring protocol conversion.

37. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarre, in view of Sankaran et al, US Patent #5,832,484 (Sankaran hereinafter).

38. As per claim 18, Navarre does not teach the arrangement as set forth in claim 16, wherein said context data structure includes a hash table containing pointers to a plurality of element value locations.

39. Sankaran teaches of hash table containing pointers to various objects (Col 7, lines 20-29).

40. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the Navarre and Sankaran because the teachings of Sankaran to implement a hash table with pointers referencing data elements would improve the teachings of Navarre by reducing data size by decreasing the size of character strings, and allowing for faster retrieval of elements located in a database.

Conclusion

41. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE

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MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

42. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM to 5PM and every other Friday.

43. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

44. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 25, 2006

JJ


JOHN FOLLANSBEE
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